

P71C2-US
This Declaration and Power of Attorney is
intended for the attached Application and
identifying attorney docket number of
new application

Attorney's Docket No.: 003401.P071

Patent

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

SHARPENED, ORIENTED CONTACT TIP STRUCTURES

the specification of which

 X is attached hereto.

 was filed on _____ as

United States Application Number _____

or PCT International Application Number _____

and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

| <u>Prior Foreign Application(s)</u> | | | <u>Priority Claimed</u> | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| _____ (Number) | _____ (Country) | _____ (Day/Month/Year Filed) | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| _____ (Number) | _____ (Country) | _____ (Day/Month/Year Filed) | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| _____ (Number) | _____ (Country) | _____ (Day/Month/Year Filed) | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below

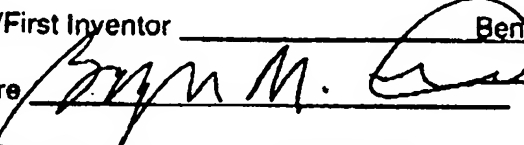
| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| _____ (Application Number) | _____ Filing Date |
| _____ (Application Number) | _____ Filing Date |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| _____ (Application Number) | _____ Filing Date | _____ (Status -- patented, pending, abandoned) |
| _____ (Application Number) | _____ Filing Date | _____ (Status -- patented, pending, abandoned) |

I hereby appoint Farzad E. Amini, Reg. No. P42,261; Aloysius T. C. AuYeung, Reg. No. 35,432; Amy M. Armstrong, Reg. No. 42,265; William Thomas Babbitt, Reg. No. 39,591; Carol F. Barry, Reg. No. P41,800; Jordan Michael Becker, Reg. No. 39,602; Bradley J. Bereznak, Reg. No. 33,474; Michael A. Bernadieu, Reg. No. 35,934; Roger W. Blakely, Jr., Reg. No. 25,831; Gregory D. Caldwell, Reg. No. 39,926; Kent M. Chen, Reg. No. 39,630; Lawrence M. Cho, Reg. No. 39,942; Yong S. Choi, Reg. No. P43,324; Thomas M. Coester, Reg. No. 39,637; Roland B. Cortes, Reg. No. 39,152; Barbara Bokanov Courtney, Reg. No. P42,442; Michael Anthony DeSanctis, Reg. No. 39,957; Daniel M. De Vos, Reg. No. 37,813; Robert Andrew Diehl, Reg. No. 40,992; Tarek N. Fahmi, Reg. No. 41,402; James Y. Go, Reg. No. 40,621; Richard Leon Gregory, Jr., P42,607; Dinu Gruia, Reg. No. P42,996; David R. Halvorson, Reg. No. 33,395; Thomas A. Hassing, Reg. No. 36,159; Phuong-Quan Hoang, P41,839; Willmore F. Holbrow III, Reg. No. P41,845; George W. Hoover II, Reg. No. 32,992; Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139; Dag H. Johansen, Reg. No. 36,172; William W. Kidd, Reg. No. 31,772; Tim L. Kitchen, Reg. No. P41,900; Michael J. Mallie, Reg. No. 36,591; Andre L. Marais, under 37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b); Paul A. Mendonsa, Reg. No. P42,879; Darren J. Milliken, P42,004; Thinh V. Nguyen, P42,034; Kimberley G. Nobles, Reg. No. 38,255; Michael A. Proksch, Reg. No. P43,021; Babak Redjaian, P42,096; James H. Salter, Reg. No. 35,668; William W. Schaal, Reg. No. 39,018; James C. Scheller, Reg. No. 31,195; Anand Sethuraman, Reg. No. P43,351; Charles E. Shemwell, Reg. No. 40,171; Maria McCormack Sobrino, Reg. No. 31,639; Stanley W. Sokoloff, Reg. No. 25,128; Allan T. Sponseller, Reg. No. 38,318; Geoffrey T. Staniford, P43,151; Judith A. Szepesi, Reg. No. 39,393; Vincent P. Tassinari, Reg. No. P42,179; Edwin H. Taylor, Reg. No. 25,129; George G. C. Tseng, Reg. No. 41,355; Lester J. Vincent, Reg. No. 31,460; John Patrick Ward, Reg. No. 40,216; Stephen Warhola, Reg. No. P43,237; Ben J. Yorks, Reg. No. 33,609; and Norman Zafman, Reg. No. 26,250; my attorneys, of BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP, with offices located at 12400 Wilshire Boulevard, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025, telephone (310) 207-3800, and David Larwood, Reg. No. 33,191 and James R. Thein, Reg. No. 31,710, my patent attorneys; with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Full Name of Sole/First Inventor Benjamin N. Eldridge

Inventor's Signature  Date 9 NOV 1998

Residence Danville, CA Citizenship USA
(City, State) (Country)

Post Office Address 651 Sheri Lane
Danville, CA 94523

Full Name of Second/Joint Inventor Gary W. Grube
Inventor's Signature [Signature] Date 9 Nov 98
Residence Pleasanton, CA Citizenship USA
(City, State) (Country)
Post Office Address 6807 Singletree Court
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Full Name of Third/Joint Inventor Igor Y. Khandros
Inventor's Signature [Signature] Date 10 Nov 98
Residence Orinda, CA Citizenship USA
(City, State) (Country)
Post Office Address 25 Haciendas Road
Orinda, CA 94563

Full Name of Fourth/Joint Inventor Alec Madsen
Inventor's Signature [Signature] Date Oct. 27, 1998
Residence San Francisco, CA Citizenship USA
(City, State) (Country)
Post Office Address 656 1/2 Valencia Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

Full Name of Fifth/Joint Inventor Gaetan L. Mathieu
Inventor's Signature [Signature] Date 27 Oct. 1998
Residence Livermore, CA Citizenship Canada
(City, State) (Country)
Post Office Address 659 Orange Way
Livermore, CA 94550